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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION - NOVEMBER 1, 1934

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from stockyard markets into the eleven Corn Belt States dropped off sharply in October and the small movement in this month was in sharp contrast to the relatively large movement in the preceding 3 months. In all other years of the 16 for which records are available shipments in October were much larger than in September but this year they were about the same as in September, but were nearly 35 percent smaller than in October 1933 and the smallest for October in 16 years.

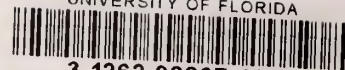
The total for the 4 months, July to October, this year was the second smallest in 16 years, as a result of the small shipments in October. The total of about 940,000 head, was about 8 percent larger than the record small shipments in 1933 but was 6 percent below the 5-year (1929-33) average for these months.

Compared with September and the 3 months, July to September, shipments into the 5 Corn Belt States east of the Mississippi River decreased relatively more than shipments into the States west of the River. The total into the Eastern Corn Belt for the 4 months was relatively large compared with last year and with the 5-year average and was the largest proportion of the total Corn Belt shipments on record. Shipments into the 6 western Corn Belt States, on the other hand, were the smallest for the 4 months on record. All of the reduction in these States was in the shipments into Missouri and the States west of the Missouri River since the shipments into Iowa and Minnesota were relatively large with the total into Iowa the largest since 1926. Although total shipments into the States most seriously affected by the drought are much the smallest of any year in the 16 years of record, they seem rather large in view of the greatly reduced feed supplies in those States. While it is probable that a much larger than usual proportion of the cattle shipped into these drought States will be wintered on roughage the number that will be grain finished will be large relative to feed grain production and supplies.

As was the case in the preceding 3 months the cattle shipped into the Corn Belt in October included a relatively large proportion of light weight steers and calves. For the 4 leading markets for which records are available total shipments in October were 69 percent as large as in October 1933, but the number of steers over 1,000 pounds was only about 20 percent as large and of 900 to 1,000 pounds only 35 percent as large as in October last year.

Reports from the Western States indicate that the number of cattle fed in those States this winter will be considerably smaller than a year earlier, the reductions being especially large in areas where the sugarbeet crop this year was small. Finishing of cattle at cottonseed mills in Texas and Oklahoma is expected to be on a much reduced scale this winter from last.

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